safety amongst themselves and also with larger operators through their Association.

55. Concerned agencies should look into the possibility of reviewing taxes/levies on aircraft fuel (ATF/Avgas), Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT), import of aircraft spares, airport charges etc. in order to bring down the cost of operation for small aircraft operators. Since this issues involves various Government Agencies, it is proposed that a Sub-Committee may be nominated by the Government consisting of appropriate personnel from the concerned agencies to give their recommendations for making the small aircraft operations cost effective on sustained basis.

Norms for expansion of fleet

3089. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aircrafts above ten years old used by the Airlines companies in India;

(b) whether there are any proposal with the Airlines companies to replace their ageing fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any norms are maintained for the expansion of fleet; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) 22 aircraft in Air India's fleet, 41 aircraft in Indian Airlines fleet, including Alliance Air and 5 aircraft in Sahara Airlines fleet are more than 10 years old.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has already initiated a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft to meet its fleet requirement both for replacement and for expansion during 2003-04 to 2007-08.

As part of Air-India's fleet rationalisation plans, 3 more A310-300 aircraft are proposed to be inducted on dry-lease basis and 2

B747-200 aircraft and 3 A300-B4 aircraft are proposed to be phased-out.

(d) and (e) The expansion of fleet from time to time depends upon the growth in Passenger and Cargo traffic in the country, market requirements, economics of operations and other financial and commercial considerations.

Rehabilitation of slum dwellers around Mumbai Airport

3090. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed a number of slums from its encroached land in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to rehabilitate those removed slum dwellers; and

(d) if so, what is the status of the rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) required additional land for the purpose of extension of B-3 taxi track at Mumbai airport for augmenting the runway capacity at Mumbai airport. There were encroachments in the land adjoining the taxi track. AAI requested the Government of Maharashtra to help in this regard. With the assistance of the State Government of Maharashtra, Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) and Shivshahi Punarvasan Prakalp Limited (SPPL), a survey was conducted of the slum settlements and 2016 hutment dwellers have been identified, who were in existence prior to 1.1.95. SPPL has initiated action for removal and rehabilitation of these slums/encroachments. In terms of the policy of the State Government, these slum dwellers are to be resettled at a different location. AAI has sanctioned necessary amount at per rules towards rehabilitation of these slum dwellers and a partial payment of Rs. 7 crores has already been released as first instalment to SPPL towards the resettlement cost. The SPPL has